

Response to the Office Action
Dated July 8, 2004

Appln. No. 10/613,804

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August 6, 2004

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2004. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Summary of Claim Status and Rejections

Claims 1-42 are pending and all are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,560,587 to McCutcheon et al.

Summary of the Invention

The invention concerns a seal positionable within a knife gate valve. The seal is engageable with a surface of a movable knife gate oriented transversely to an axial direction that defines the flow through the valve. The seal effects a fluid-tight closure of the valve and comprises a flexible, resilient loop positionable within the valve adjacent to the knife gate. The loop comprises a flexible, resilient sealing lobe extending around the loop. The sealing lobe has a deformable sealing surface facing in the axial direction and engageable with the knife gate surface. A first channel extends around the loop and is positioned opposite to the sealing lobe. The first channel faces in the axial direction away from the sealing lobe. A second channel extends around the loop and is positioned adjacent to the sealing lobe. The second channel faces inwardly of the loop. The invention also includes a valve that uses the aforementioned seal.

The Argument

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, contending that the cited reference McCutcheon et al fails to meet the requirements necessary to support a rejection on the basis of anticipation because every element recited in the claims is not taught in the reference. This is shown on a claim-by-claim basis in the arguments presented below.